



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Griffith-Cima, *et al* Examiner: D. Naff  
Serial No.: 09/008,945 Art Unit: 1651  
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(MIT6196)  
Title: TISSUE FORMATION BY INJECTING A CELL-POLYMER  
SOLUTION THAT GELS IN VIVO

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Amendment**

Please delete claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14-24 and add the following new claims:

25. A method for introducing cells into an animal, comprising:  
forming a cell-polymeric composition by mixing dissociated cells with a solution of a biodegradable, biocompatible natural or synthetic organic polymer;  
hardening the polymer into a continuous three-dimensional open-lattice structure which entraps water molecules to form a hydrogel construct containing the dissociated cells and having a desired anatomic shape; and  
introducing said hydrogel construct into the animal.
26. The method of claim 25, further comprising introducing said cell-polymeric composition into a mold having a desired anatomic shape prior to the step of hardening.
27. A method for introducing cells into an animal, comprising:  
forming a cell-polymeric composition by mixing dissociated cells with a solution of a biodegradable, biocompatible natural or synthetic organic polymer;  
introducing said cell-polymeric composition into the animal; and  
following the step of introducing, hardening the polymer into a three-dimensional open-lattice structure which entraps water molecules to form a hydrogel containing the dissociated cells.

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01 FC:122  
02 FC:199

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Pat/Conversion Paper